

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Kosice-Barca Airfield	DATE DISTR.	7 April 1955
		NO. OF PAGES	4 25X1
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	
DATE ACQUIRED		This is UNEVALUATED Information	

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

Location and Dimensions

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1. Kosice-Barca Airfield is located about 4 kilometers south-southwest of Kosice, above Barca, between the Kosice-Velka Ida road and the railroad line connecting these two towns.
2. Land Marks:
 - a. Railroad turnout at Barca.
 - b. Spires of the Roman Catholic church at Barca.
 - c. The Jakabhaza forest, located to the south of the airfield.
3. the
airfield is 3,000 meters long (north to south) and 1,600 meters wide.

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General

4. Prior to World War II the Czechs had built an airfield east of the above railroad line. Under Hungarian rule, the field served as a training area for the airforce academy and was later completely abandoned. A completely new airfield was then built west of Barca. This construction took place in 1944, still under Hungarian rule. In the spring of 1949, the Czechs continued with this construction; the concrete runway was not completed until summer 1953. Two new hangars were added.
5. Currently, the field is used for both military and civilian purposes. Many commercial aircraft land on the field. The ground is dry, but the field is located within the flood basin of the Hornad River. Only the southwest corner of the field was drained. Ground water is piped to surrounding fields, where it soaks into the ground.
6. Repeated efforts were made to cultivate grass on the airfield but have been unsuccessful due to the dryness of the soil. Consequently, the airfield can easily be picked out from the surrounding landscape.

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Runway and Taxi Strips

7. There was no concrete runway on the field up to 1953. Due to the extraordinary firmness of the ground, there appeared to be little need for a concrete runway. In the spring of 1953, however, construction was begun on a concrete runway, running diagonally from southwest to northeast. The runway starts at the concrete apron in front of the hangars [redacted] The apron extends about 300 meters onto the field. The runway ends at the northern edge of the field, about 400 meters west of the northeast corner, is 25 meters wide, and consists of a series of 5 x 5-meter concrete squares. The seams are filled with tar and, according to source's report, the concrete is some 15 centimeters thick. 25X1

Buildings

8. The buildings around the airfield are located on the southern flank and along the western flank. An 80 x 40 meter, three-story building with an inner courtyard located in the northwest corner of the field serves the commercial air lines [redacted] A 10-meter-high control tower in the center of the building faces the field. The many windows of the tower make it appear as though the entire structure is made of glass. The building houses the administrative offices, workshops, store rooms, ticket counters, and restaurant. According to rumors, a new commercial airfield is to be built south of the existing field in 1954. Both military and civilian aircraft are controlled from the control tower by Czechoslovak Air Force officers. 25X1
9. A flat-roofed, three-story, 50 x 40 meter building with visible stairwells stands some 400 paces south of the above building. Next to this building there is a two-story building of about the same structural characteristics which houses the airfield headquarters [redacted] 25X1
10. About another 300 paces to the south of this location there is a 60 x 35 meter production shop [redacted] This building is a concrete structure with a slate roof and large windows and skylights. 25X1
11. At the southwesterly corner of the field there are two hangars [redacted] each about 85 x 35 meters, of concrete construction with corrugated roofs, glass brick walls, and sheet metal sliding doors. To the west, and adjoining the hangars, are two annexes. The hangar doors open to the east. An additional hangar has been built on the southern flank of the field. This structure is located about 400 meters east of the southwest corner [redacted] Its sliding doors face north. Another building is located about 300 meters east of this hangar [redacted]. This is a barracks. The concrete taxi apron (Item 1a) is located in front of two of the hangars [redacted] 25X1
12. In the southeast corner, adjoining the barracks, are the paratrooper barracks [redacted] This building measures about 80 x 30 meters and has three stories. A 70 meter high steel jump tower is located in the courtyard of the building. 25X1

Radio, Radar, and Meteorological Station

13. The airfield has two ultra-shortwave transmitters which operate on special frequencies. One of the transmitters is located in the control tower, with the antenna located on the airfield headquarters building [redacted] Another antenna is located about 300 meters west of this building between two transmitter masts. 25X1
14. About 100 meters north of the northern flank of the airfield, and in line with the center of the airfield, a Kyrill-IV radar set is mounted permanently [redacted] Constant telephone contact is maintained between the airfield and the district meteorological institute in Kosice. 25X1
15. In addition to this, the airfield also has its own meteorological station, located in a small farm house about 450 meters north of the northern edge of the field [redacted] 25X1

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Fuel and Ammunition

16. Fuel is stored in an underground storage facility at the northeast corner of the field [redacted]. The storage tank is located at the extreme eastern end of the runway, about 400 meters from the northern flank of the field. The distance to the eastern flank is about the same. During construction of the field, a large hole in this location, which would normally have had to be filled, was utilized and six storage tanks were installed instead. The tanks are made of concrete and have a capacity for 50 tons of fuel each. The six vessels hold light and regular gasoline. There are also two other tanks and one barrel area, which hold 30 tons of oil each. The entire storage facility is under ground and topped with 150 meters of concrete and a 1.20-meter-thick layer of rolled gravel at ground level. A pipeline runs alongside the runway from the storage facility, permitting the fueling of aircraft at various locations. 25X1
17. Two ammunition rooms are located in the southeast corner of the barracks courtyard [redacted]. Built of corrugated iron sheets, the rooms hold the ammunition for the various units stationed on the airfield. Eight brick structures with wooden roofs hold more ammunition in the forest south of the airfield. The ammunition storage buildings occupy an area of 300 x 300 meters and are surrounded by double strands of barbed wire. A guard is mounted over this location. 25X1

Electric Power

18. Electric power for the field is supplied by the power station in Kosice, through a transformer station at the southern exit of Barca. A high-voltage line runs from Kosice to Barca, along the western edge of the road. Overhead cables take the current as far as the industrial spur turnout from the main railroad line. From here to the field the cable is buried.
19. Each of the four corners of the airfield is illuminated by built-in red, white, and blue neon tubes. The field also operates four 1,200-millimeter searchlights, mounted on three-axle 5-ton ZIS trucks. The searchlights illuminate the runway during night flying.

Antiaircraft Defense

20. A concrete AA emplacement is located along the west side of the road to Hidas, in the multiple railroad track area near Velka Ida, [redacted]. Another concrete emplacement is located in the northeast corner of this area (Item 19). Similar emplacements [redacted] are located about 150 meters west of two of the hangars [redacted]. 25X1
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21. The airfield is fenced in on the eastern and western sides only. In the south and north the area is marked only by "No Trespassing" signs.

Fencing and Approaches

22. The highway to the airfield branches off at the southern exit of Barca from the main road which leads from Kosice to the south. A secondary, connecting road from the Velka Ida road leads directly to the commercial airlines building.
23. The airfield spur turns off in a westerly direction from the Velka Ida railroad line and ends in a double-track siding south of the hangars [redacted]. 25X1

Wind Direction

24. The main wind direction over the field is north to southwest. In the spring the winds can reach gale force.

Air Order of Battle Information

25. The garrison at the airfield consists of one aircraft servicing battalion; one para-trooper training unit (company strength); one fighter aircraft training unit (training company).

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- a. Aircraft service battalion: Field post office [] consisting of workshops company, guard company, transportation company, signal company (equipped with mobile searchlights). 25X1
- b. Paratrooper unit: Field post office [] composed of a training staff of 60 men and 200 trainees. Duration of training: 6 months; upon completion of training, troopers return to their original units. 25X1
- c. Status of aircraft in the fall of 1953: 15 YAK-9; 6 IL-2 (used for jump training); 12 MIG-15.
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